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VIRGINIA. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,
ALEXANDRIA, 1864.

Journal.

JOURNAL

OF THE

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHICH CONVENEED AT

ALEXANDRIA

ON THE

13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1864.

ALEXANDRIA,

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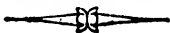
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JOURNAL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.



ALEXANDRIA, VA., Feb. 13th, 1864.

The members of the Convention elected to alter and amend the Constitution of the State of Virginia, assembled in the United States District Court Room, and were called to order by W. W. WING, at 12 o'clock, M.

On motion of W. W. WING, Dr. L. W. WEBB, of Norfolk, was elected temporary Chairman, and W. J. COWING, of Alexandria, temporary Secretary.

Mr. WING moved that a Committee on Credentials, consisting of five members be appointed. The motion being put it was adopted, and the President appointed the following named members: Messrs. G. R. Boush, E. R. Gover, John W. Stone, John Hawxhurst and Dr. A. Watson.

Mr. WING then moved the appointment of a Committee, consisting of three members, to report permanent officers for the Convention.

The motion was adopted, and the President appointed the following named members: Messrs. W. W. Wing, S. F. Beach and LeRoy G. Edwards.

On motion of Mr. WING, the Convention then adjourned until 12 o'clock, M., on Tuesday next.

—o—
ALEXANDRIA, Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

Mr. BOUSH, from the Committee on Credentials, made the following report:

“Your committee have examined and found correct the commissions of the following named gentlemen:

JOHN W. STONE, of Princess Anne County.

GEORGE R. BOUSH, and PHILIP G. THOMAS, of Norfolk County.

WARREN W. WING, of Norfolk Senatorial District.

JOHN J. HENSHAW, JAMES M. DOWNEY and E. R. GOVER, of Loudoun County.

LEROY G. EDWARDS, of the Senatorial District of the Counties of Princess Anne and Norfolk and City of Portsmouth.

WILLIAM H. DIX, of Accomac County.

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ARTHUR WATSON, of Accomac and Northampton Counties.

LEWIS W. WEBB, of Norfolk City.

ROBERT B. WOOD, of Elizabeth City.

T. S. TENNIS, of Elizabeth City, York, Warwick, Charles City and New Kent Counties, James City and the City of Williamsburg.

WILLIAM P. MOORE, of Northampton County.

JOHN HAWTHURST, of Fairfax County.

S. FERGUSON BEACH, of Alexandria and Fairfax Counties.

WALTER L. PENN, of Alexandria County.

G. R. BOUSH, Chairman."

The report of the committee was accepted.

Mr. WING, from the committee on permanent organization and Rules for the government of the Convention, made the following report:

"The committee on organization and Rules respectfully report that they recommend as officers of the Convention the following:

A President.

A Secretary.

A Reading Clerk.

A Sergeant-at-Arms.

A Doorkeeper.

To be elected by ballot.

The Rules of the House of Delegates, so far as they are applicable, are recommended as the Rules of the Convention, subject to such modifications as the Convention may from time to time find necessary.

W. W. WING, Chairman."

Mr. HAWTHURST moved to amend by striking out "Reading Clerk" and substituting therefor "Stenographic Reporter."

Mr. WING thought the expense would be too great with the limited means in the Treasury.

Mr. DOWNEY favored the amendment, but as it was not seconded,

Mr. BOUSH moved to amend by adding to the Report of the Committee "And also a Stenographic Reporter." The amendment was adopted. The report of the Committee was then concurred in as amended.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the pay of the President be the same as a member.

Mr. DOWNEY offered an amendment fixing the salary of the President at eight dollars per diem, which was lost. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. THOMAS offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the pay of the Clerks and Reporter of this Convention shall be six dollars per diem each.

On motion the election of permanent officers was then gone into.

Mr. WING nominated LeRoy G. Edwards, of Norfolk, for President, and Mr. GOVER nominated Dr. A. Watson, of Accomac county.

The first ballot resulted as follows :—LeRoy G. Edwards 10 ; Dr. A. Watson 5 ; W. W. Wing 1.

Mr. EDWARDS was declared duly elected and was conducted to the chair by Dr. Webb. He accepted the honor conferred upon him by a few appropriate remarks.

Mr. WING nominated W. J. Cowing of Alexandria, for Secretary. There being no other nominations he was declared unanimously elected.

Mr. WING nominated Wm. F. Mercier, of Loudoun County, for Reading Clerk. There being no other nominations he was declared unanimously elected.

Mr. WEBB nominated Mr. G. P. Kneller, of Norfolk County, for Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. BEACH nominated Mr. Brooks of Fairfax County.

The first ballot resulted as follows :—Mr. Kneller 15 ; Mr. Brooks 2. Mr. Kneller having received a majority of the votes cast was declared duly elected.

The following named gentlemen were put in nomination for Doorkeeper: Edward Sullivan, of Alexandria ; Wm. Hough, of Loudoun County ; John Hanna, of Fairfax County ; Joseph Colton, of Alexandria County.

On the third ballot Mr. Colton received nine votes, Mr. Hough five and Mr. Hanna two. Mr. Colton having received a majority of the votes cast was declared duly elected.

Mr. HAWXHURST offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the President be authorized to employ a reporter.

Dr. WEBB offered the following resolution, which was also adopted :

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms is hereby instructed to procure additional desks or tables for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was also adopted :

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to purchase a stove for the more comfortable warming of the room, and also to procure stationery for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING also offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to confer with the President of the United States on the question of emancipation.

Mr. WATSON moved to amend by adding “and compensation” after the word “emancipation.”

Messrs. BUSH and HAWXHURST objected to the resolution, and thought it unwise and untimely.

Dr. WATSON also thought the resolution premature.

Mr. HAWKHURST moved to lay on the table, which motion was not sustained.

The ayes and nays being called for on the passage of the resolution, the vote stood as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. LeRoy G. Edwards, (President), Moore, Penn, Thomas, Stone, Tennis, Webb, Wing.—8.

Nays—Messrs. Beach, Boush, Downey, Dix, Cover, Henshaw, Hawkhurst, Wood, Watson—9.

So the resolution was lost.

Dr. WATSON offered the following resolutions which were adopted

Resolved, That the President of this Convention be instructed to appoint the following Committees:

A Committee on the Judiciary, consisting of five members.

A Committee on the Elective Franchise, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Representation, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Emancipation, consisting of five members.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock, to-morrow.

—o—

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The proceedings of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the President be instructed to appoint the following additional Committees:

A Committee on Bill of Rights, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Executive Department, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Legislative Department, consisting of five members.

A Committee on Education, consisting of five members.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolutions, which were also adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk be authorized to purchase a Journal in which to record the proceedings of this Convention.

Resolved, further, That he be authorized to have twenty-five copies of the Journal printed daily for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the session of the Convention be opened with prayer, and that the President be authorized to confer with the clergymen of this city for that purpose.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to subscribe for one hundred and twenty-five copies of the *Virginia State Journal* (Daily) for the use of members of this Convention, and that the same be enclosed in wrappers ready for mailing.

Mr. BOUSH offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by the President to determine who are citizens of the Restored Government of Virginia, and how citizenship may be relinquished.

Mr. WATSON offered the following amendment:

"That the Committee on the Elective Franchise be, and are hereby instructed to report on the above subject."

The amendment was accepted and the resolution was then adopted as amended.

Dr. WEBB offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be authorized to have fifty copies of the Rules adopted by this Convention printed for the use of its members.

Mr. HAWKHURST offered the following resolution, which was rejected:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of ordering an election in Prince William County for a Delegate to this Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That we proceed to the election of a Janitor, whose duties shall be to make fires and keep the Hall in order, and whose compensation shall be two dollars per diem.

Wm. Hough, of Loudoun County, and John Hanna, of Fairfax County, were then put in nomination for Janitor.

The first ballot resulted as follows :—Hough 12 ; Hanna 4.

Mr. HOUGH having received the highest number of votes cast was declared elected.

Mr. THOMAS offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That no person shall have access to this Convention as a newspaper reporter who display, or who refuses to take the oath to the restored and vindicated Government of Virginia.

The resolution was debated at some length by Messrs. Penn, Boush, Downey, Thomas, Hawxhurst, Wing and Webb. On motion to have the ayes and nays taken on the adoption or rejection of the resolution, the vote stood as follows :

Ayes—Messrs. LeRoy G. Edwards, (President), Downey, Gover, Henshaw, Stone, Thomas, Tennis, Wood, Webb, Wing.—10.

Nays—Messrs. Beach, Boush, Dix, Hawxhurst, Moore, Penn, Watson.—7.

So the resolution was adopted.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-arms be authorized to purchase a suitable desk and table for the proper security of the papers and documents of this Convention.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

—o—
THURSDAY, Feb. 18th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

Prayer by Rev. W. F. SPEAKE, of the M. E. Church.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. BEACH moved a reconsideration of the vote on the resolutions of the gentleman from Loudoun (Mr. DOWNEY), providing for the appointment of additional standing committees, and adopted yesterday. The motion being sustained

Mr. BEACH offered the following resolutions as a substitute therefor, which were adopted :

Resolved, That the Committee to be appointed on the Elective Franchise, be also charged with the consideration of all such resolutions or propositions as may appertain to the Bill of Rights, the Division of Powers and the Qualification of Voters, and that said committee be denominated the "Committee on the Bill of Rights and the Qualification of Voters."

2. That the Committee to be appointed on Representation be charged with the consideration of all such resolutions or propositions as may appertain to the Legislative Department (excepting, however, resolutions or propositions touching the subject of Emancipation), and that said Committee be denominated the "Committee on the Legislative Department."

3. That the Committee to be appointed on the Judiciary be charged also with the consideration of all such resolutions or propositions as may appertain to the Executive Department, and that said Committee be denominated the "Committee on Executive and Judiciary."

4. That the Committee to be appointed on Emancipation be charged with the consideration of all such resolutions or propositions as may relate to the subject of Education, and that said Committee be denominated the "Committee on Emancipation and Education."

Mr. BEACH offered the following resolutions, which were adopted and referred to the Committee on the Legislative Department:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be directed to consider the expediency of providing, in the Constitution, against the payment or recognition of any debt or obligation created or entered into, in the name of the State, by the pretended State authorities at Richmond, since the date of the passage of the ordinance of secession, in April, 1861.

2. That said Committee be directed to consider the expediency of providing, in the Constitution, against the payment or recognition of any debt or obligation created or entered into by any County or by any municipal or other corporation of the State, to aid or promote the existing rebellion against the United States.

Mr. BEACH offered the following resolution which was also adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of voters be directed to inquire into the expediency of so providing in the Constitution that all elections shall hereafter be by ballot.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

—o—

FRIDAY, Feb. 19th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The President announced the appointment of the following standing Committees:

Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of Voters:—Messrs. Dr. Arthur Watson, Walter L. Penn, William P. Moore, Philip G. Thomas and L. W. Webb.

Committee on the Legislative Department:—Messrs. James M. Downey, W. H. Dix, T. S. Tennis, John Hawxhurst and John W. Stone.

Committee on Executive Department and Judiciary:—Messrs. S. Ferguson Beach, Dr. J. J. Henshaw, E. R. Gover, G. R. Boush and W. W. Wing.

Committee on Emancipation and Education:—Messrs. W. W. Wing, S. Ferguson Beach, Dr. Arthur Watson, Philip G. Thomas and Robert B. Wood.

Mr. DOWNEY offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report on the number of miles of travel of each member of this Convention.

The President appointed Messrs. Downey, Wood and Moore as said committee.

On motion of Mr. WING, Dr. Webb was added to the said committee.

Mr. DOWNEY, from the committee on Mileage, after a short absence, made the following report, which was adopted :

“ Your Committee find the members of this Convention entitled to mileage for the distances set forth opposite their names :

LeRoy G. Edwards,.....	254	Miles.
G. R. Boush,.....	254	“
Philip G. Thomas,.....	254	“
James M. Downey,.....	134	“
Dr. J. J. Henshaw,.....	134	“
E. R. Gover,.....	134	“
Dr. A. Watson,.....	289	“
Wm. H. Dix,.....	289	“
W. P. Moore,.....	270	“
T. S. Tannis,.....	242	“
Robert B. Wood,.....	242	“
W. W. Wing,.....	252	“
L. W. Webb,.....	252	“
J. Hawxhurst,.....	14	“
S. Ferguson Beach,.....		
Walter L. Penn,.....		
John M. Stone,.....	272	“

JAMES M. DOWNEY, Chairman.”

Mr. HAWXHURST stated that though he might be entitled to mileage, he should not claim it, as he was in the city on official business not connected with the Convention.

Mr. BOUSH offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to ascertain and report to this Convention, whether the detestable practice of whipping human beings at the whipping post is still in force in any portion of the restored Government of Virginia.

After some debate the resolution was laid on the table.

Mr. BEACH offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to have printed, for the use of the members of the Convention, one hundred interleaved copies of the present Constitution and Bill of Rights of Virginia.

On motion the Convention adjourned until Tuesday next, the 23rd inst., at 12 o'clock, M.

—o—

TUESDAY, Feb. 23rd, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The proceedings of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Dr. WATSON, from the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of voters, reported that said Committee had had under consideration the Bill of Rights and begged leave to report the Bill of Rights of Virginia as passed June 12th, 1776, as amended by the Convention of 1850 and 1851, without alteration. The report was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DOWNEY, from the Committee on the Legislative Department, offered the following resolutions, which were debated and referred back to the Committee :

Resolved, That the Legislative power of this Commonwealth shall be vested in a General Assembly, which shall consist in a Senate and House of Representatives. The style of all process shall be "The Commonwealth of Virginia."

2 The House of Representatives shall not consist of less than ninety nor more than one hundred members. The Senate shall not be greater than one-third the number of Representatives.

3. That the same be referred to the Committee on the Legislative Department.

Dr. WEBB introduced an ordinance relative to the qualification of voters, which was referred to the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Elective Franchise; and ordered to be printed for the use of the Convention.

Mr. WING offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Resolved, That the Committee on Emancipation and Education be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting the following as substitutes for the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first Sections of Article IV of the present Constitution of Virginia :

19th.—Slavery and involuntary servitude, (except for crime), is hereby abolished and prohibited in the State forever.

20th.—Courts of competent jurisdiction may apprentice minors of African decent on like conditions provided by law, for apprenticing white children.

21st.—The General Assembly shall make no law contravening the nineteenth Section of this Constitution.

Mr. PENN offered an Ordinance fixing the number and compensation of officers of the Convention. Laid on the table.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

—o—

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 24th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. BOUSH submitted the following resolution :

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Legislature to provide for and sustain a system of public schools adequate to the wants of the citizens, and that no child shall be prohibited therefrom on account of race or color.

On motion of Mr. WATSON the resolution was referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. WATSON submitted the following amendment to the first Section of the Third Article of the Constitution :

Every white male citizen of the Commonwealth of the age of twenty-one years, who has been a resident of the State for one year and of the county, city or town, where he offers to vote for six months next preceding an election, shall be qualified to vote for member of the General Assembly and all officers elective by the people ; but no person shall vote hereafter at any election who has held a military commission under the so-called Confederate Government, above the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, or who has held civil office under the so-called Confederate Government, or under the State Governments in rebellion against the Government of the United States, with the following exceptions, viz: Justices of the Peace, Constables, Surveyors of the Public Roads, Overseers of the Poor, Notaries, Public, and Commissioners in Chancery.

All persons who have held military commissions under the so-called Confederate States of America below the grade of Colonel, shall not be qualified to vote for the space of five years after the date of the formation of this Constitution.

Nor shall any person be qualified to vote until after the expiration of the time aforesaid who has at any time favored the secession of Virginia from the United States, by advocating secession or voting for secession candidates for seats in the convention which assembled at Richmond on the thirteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, except such as may have afterwards voted against the ratification of the ordinance of secession.

No person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States shall be deemed a resident of this State by reason of being stationed therein. And no person shall have the right to vote who is of unsound mind, or a pauper, or commissioned officer, soldier, seaman, or marine in the service of the United States, or who has been convicted of bribery in an election, or of any infamous offence.

Resolved, That the annexed proposition be referred to the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of Voters.

A. WATSON.

Adopted and referred to the Committee in conformity with the resolution annexed.

Mr. BEACH submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Executive and Judiciary, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so providing in the Constitution that Judges shall hereafter be chosen by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Executive.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

—o—
THURSDAY, Feb. 25th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. WEBB submitted an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the relief of persons holding State or other securities within the Rebel lines from which no interest has been received."

Mr. WING moved that the Ordinance be laid on the table and printed.

The subject was debated by Messrs. Wing and Webb in the affirmative, and Messrs. Beach, Downey and Hawxhurst in the negative.

Mr. BEACH asked for a division of the question, as he wished to vote to lay on the table and against the proposition to print. The request being granted the question was then put on the first clause to lay on the table—and adopted.

The question then being called on the second clause---to print it was adopted, ayes 8 ; nays 7.

On motion the Convention adjourned until Tuesday, March 1st, 1864.

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TUESDAY, March 1st, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. WATSON, Chairman of the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of Voters, submitted the following report, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed :

The Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of Voters have had under consideration the subject of the Elective Franchise, and beg leave to report to the Convention the following as an amendment to the First Section of the Third Article of the Constitution of Virginia :

Every white male citizen of the Commonwealth of the age of twenty-one years, who has been a resident of the State for one year, and of the county, city or town, where he offers to vote for six months next preceding an election, and who has paid his previous year's tax, shall be qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elective by the people ; but no person shall hold office or vote hereafter at any election who voted for or signed the ordinance of secession of Virginia, in the Convention which assembled at Richmond on the thirteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, or has held a military commission under the so-called Confederate government above the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, or who has held civil office under the so-called Confederate government, or under the State governments in rebellion against the Government of the United States, with the following exceptions, viz : Justices of the Peace, Constables, Surveyors of the Public Roads, Overseers of the Poor, Notaries Public, and Commissioners in Chancery.

All persons who have held military commissions under the so-called Confederate States of America below the grade of Colonel, shall not be qualified to hold office or vote for the space of five years after the termination of this rebellion.

Nor shall any person be qualified to hold office or vote until after the expiration of the time aforesaid, who has at any time favored the secession of Virginia from the United States, by advocating secession, or voting for secession candidates for seats in the Convention which assembled at Richmond on the thirteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, except such as may have afterwards voted against the ratification of the ordinance of secession.

No person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, shall be deemed a resident of this State by reason of being

stationed therein. And no person shall have the right to vote who is of unsound mind, or a pauper, or commissioned officer, soldier, seaman, or marine in the service of the United States, or who has been convicted of bribery in any election, or of any infamous offence.

A. WATSON, Chairman.

Mr. BEACH asked leave of absence for to-morrow, which, on motion of Mr. THOMAS, was granted.

On motion the Convention adjourned until to-morrow.

—o—
WEDNESDAY, March 2nd, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. MOORE, from the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Qualification of Voters, submitted the following minority report, as an amendment to the First Section of the Third Article of the Constitution of Virginia :

Every white male citizen of this Commonwealth of the age of twenty-one years, who has been a resident of the State for one year, and of the county, city, or town where he offers to vote, for six months next preceding an election, and who has paid all taxes assessed to him under the laws of this Commonwealth, shall be qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, and all officers elective by the people, *Provided*, he shall take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the restored government of Virginia. But all persons holding commissions in any armed forces opposing the Government of the United States, either civil or military, all members of the Legislature, and all persons holding office under the usurped government at Richmond, shall be disfranchised unless they shall return to their allegiance within twelve months from the 13th day of February, 1864, and take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the restored government of Virginia; but no person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States shall be deemed a resident of this State, by reason of being stationed therein, and no person shall have the right to vote who is of unsound mind, or a pauper, or a non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine in the service of the United States, or who has been convicted of bribery in an election, or of any infamous offence.

Mr. WING submitted the following resolution :

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to confer with the President of the United States on the subject of Emancipation and Compensation.

A division being called on the resolution it was adopted by the following vote:—Ayes 9; nays 4.

On motion of Mr. PENN, the President was then instructed to appoint said committee.

Mr. WING submitted the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has recently issued a proclamation of Amnesty to citizens of the United States engaged in the rebellion, offering pardon to all below the grade of Colonel in the armies of the so-called Confederate States upon their returning to their allegiance; and,

WHEREAS, We believe a merciless conscription is now going on by order of the so-called Confederate Congress which indicates the utter inability of the people to resist said conscription, or enable them to avail themselves of the proffered pardon and amnesty; and,

WHEREAS, We believe that an offer of amnesty and pardon to an humble subordinate, while his superior, who is possessed of absolute and despotic power over him, is excluded, will be of non-effect and no avail in producing a return to their allegiance of the privates and subaltern officers of the rebel armies. Therefore,

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to confer with the President of the United States with a view to urge the propriety of extending amnesty to all general officers of the rebel armies, upon the same terms offered to soldiers and officers of a lower grade.

Mr. WOOD moved to lay on the table, after which the subject was debated at some length by Messrs. Downey, Penn, Hawxhurst, and Watson in the negative, and Mr. Wing in the affirmative.

Mr. WEBB desired that the gentleman from Elizabeth City (Mr. WOOD) should withdraw his motion to lay on the table, in order that the subject might be definitely settled at once.

The motion was withdrawn, and the question was then put on the adoption of the preamble and resolution, and they were lost.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until to-morrow

THURSDAY, March 3rd, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. PENN called up the ordinance fixing the number and compensation of officers of the Convention, and moved to amend by striking out all that portion of the second section after the words "shall be," and insert the words "eight dollars."

After some debate, on motion of Mr. HAWXHURST the ordinance was laid on the table, whereupon

Mr. WING offered the following resolution as a substitute :

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention is hereby authorized to employ an assistant at a salary of not more than four dollars per day.

After some debate the resolution was adopted.

Mr. WEBB offered the following resolution, which was also adopted :

Resolved, That the pay of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Door-keeper of this Convention shall be the same as allowed by the House of Delegates.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until to-morrow.

FRIDAY, March 4th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The President being detained at his rooms from indisposition, the Convention was called to order by the Secretary, who notified

the members that it would be necessary to elect a President *pro tempore*, whereupon,

On motion of Mr. PENN, Mr. WEBB was called to the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then read and approved.

Mr. BEACH, Chairman of the Committee on the Executive Department and Judiciary, submitted the report of the Committee of which he is Chairman, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The President then announced the following special Committee of five to confer with the President of the United States on the subject of Emancipation and Compensation, in conformity with a resolution previously passed, viz: Messrs. Wing, Watson, Beach, Gover and Webb.

Mr. BEACH desired to be excused from acting as a member of said committee, and stated his objections to its formation.

Mr. PENN stated that he had voted for the resolution creating the Committee, but would not move for a re-consideration in the absence of its author.

Mr. DOWNEY then moved a re-consideration of the resolution, which motion was adopted.

Mr. BEACH moved to lay the whole subject on the table until a full house was present. Adopted.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until Monday, March 7th, 1864.

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MONDAY, March 7th, 1864.

Convention met at 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. WATSON, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Emancipation and Education (Mr. WING) submitted an Ordinance abolishing and forever prohibiting slavery within the limits of the State.

It was read, and on motion of Mr. WEBB was laid on the table and ordered to be printed, and made the special order of Thursday next.

The President presented a petition from James W. Brownley, of Portsmouth, contesting the seat of George R. Boush, whereupon

Mr. THOMAS submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to examine into the claims of James W. Brownley to a seat in this Convention, and that they be requested to report on the same as early a day as practicable.

2. That the private letters of George R. Boush to J. H. Burroughs, of Portsmouth, Va., and the affidavits of J. W. Tucker, which have been sent to the President of this Conven-

tion, to be used in contesting the seat of George R. Boush, be placed in the hands of said Committee for its examination.

The President announced the following named gentlemen as the special committee:—Messrs. Webb, Moore, Wood, Beach and Downey.

On motion of Mr. WATSON the Bill of Rights previously reported was taken up and read, and afterwards made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. BEACH moved that the report of the Committee on the Executive Department and Judiciary be made the special order for Friday next. The motion was concurred in.

On motion the Convention adjourned until to-morrow.

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TUESDAY, March 8th, 1864.

Convention met 12 o'clock, M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. WATSON stated that as the Report of the Committee on Emancipation was not thought to be as perfect as it might be made, he moved to recommit to the Committee. The motion was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. HAWKHURST the Committee was then instructed to report by Thursday next.

Mr. DOWNEY submitted an Ordinance defining treason, and for the punishment of the same, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

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WEDNESDAY, March 9th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. WATSON, in behalf of the Chairman of the Committee on Emancipation and Education, submitted the following report:

"Your Committee on Emancipation beg leave to introduce the following as a part of the Constitution of Virginia, to be inserted in the same under the caption of "SLAVERY OR FREEDOM:"

§ 1. Slavery and involuntary servitude (except for crime) is hereby abolished and prohibited in the State forever.

§ 2. Courts of competent jurisdiction may apprentice minors of African decent on like conditions provided by law, for apprenticing white children.

§ 3. The General Assembly shall make no law establishing slavery or recognizing property in human beings.

W. W. WING, <i>Chairman</i> ,	} Committee.
R. B. WOOD,	
PHILIP G. THOMAS.	
A. WATSON,	
S. FERGUSON BEACH,	

Laid on the table, and on motion of Mr. WEBB was made the special order for to-morrow.

Mr. DOWNEY submitted the following resolutions, which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed :

Resolved, That the money or monies obtained from the sales of confiscated property, shall be applied *first*, to the payment of loyal persons for all the losses they have sustained by and through this rebellion; *second*, to be applied to free school purposes; *third*, if a surplus, it shall be applied to the payment of the State debt, or on internal improvements.

2nd.—The Legislature shall provide by law for the same at the first session after the adoption of this Constitution.

Mr. DOWNEY also offered the following resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Education :

Resolved, That the Legislature shall as soon as conveniently may be, provide by law, for a general system of education throughout the State, in such a manner that the poor may be taught gratis.

2nd.—That the arts and sciences shall be promoted in one or more seminaries or colleges of learning.

Mr. WEBB, Chairman of the Special Committee on the contested seat of Mr. George R. Boush, made the following report, which was unanimously adopted :

“The Committee to whom was referred the claim of James W. Brownley, Esq., of Portsmouth, to a seat in this Convention in place of George R. Boush, beg leave to report that they have examined carefully the papers filed, and are of the opinion that Mr. J. W. Brownley is not entitled to a seat in this Convention.

L. W. WEBB, <i>Chairman</i> ,	} Committee.
R. B. WOOD,	
WM. P. MOORE,	
JAMES M. DOWNEY,	
S. FERGUSON BEACH,	

Mr. DOWNEY submitted an Ordinance providing for amendments to the Constitution by the Legislature after the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed by the following vote : ayes 7 ; nays 5.

Mr. HAWXHURST then moved to take up the ordinance previously introduced by the gentleman from Loudoun (Mr. DOWNEY), defining and punishing treason, and submitted a substitute for the same.—The subject was debated at some length by Messrs. Hawxhurst, Penn, Downey and Webb, after which it was laid on the table, ordered to be printed and made the special order of Tuesday next.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

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THURSDAY, March 10th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Emancipation being the special order of the day, the same was taken up and read.

The subject was then debated at considerable length by Messrs. Downey, Boush, Hawxhurst and Watson in favor of its immediate adoption.

Mr. BEACH desired to make an explanation. His name did not appear on the report of the Committee on Emancipation from the fact that he was absent when the committee made its report. As he endorsed the report and should vote for its adoption, he asked that his name might be recorded with the balance of the Committee:—The request was granted and his name so recorded.

Mr. PENN said as there seemed to be no opposition, he would now move the unanimous adoption of the report.

Mr. WEBB desired the ayes and nays taken, and they were recorded as follows :

Ayes—Messrs. LeRoy G. Edwards (President), Beach, Boush, Downey, Dix, Gover, Henshaw, Hawxhurst, Penn, Thomas, Tennis, Webb, Wood, Watson, Wing.—15.

Nays—Mr. Moore.

So the report was adopted.

Mr. WATSON offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon Gen. SLOUGH and request that a salute be fired in honor of the passage of the act of emancipation.

The PRESIDENT appointed the following named gentlemen as said committee :—Messrs. Watson, Penn and Gover.

Mr. DOWNEY submitted the following resolution, which was also adopted :

Resolved, That a special committee of five members be appointed to prepare a schedule of the Constitution.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until 11 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

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FRIDAY, March 11th, 1864.

Convention met at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Committee on the Executive Department and Judiciary being the special order of the day, the same was taken up for consideration. As many members were unavoidably absent

Mr. WEBB moved to postpone the consideration of the Report until Wednesday next. The motion was concurred in.

On motion the Convention then adjourned until Monday next at 10 o'clock, A. M.

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MONDAY, March 14th, 1864.

Convention met at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Committee on the Bill of Rights being the special order of the day, the same was called up and read, after

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